

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder, wherein hydrophobicity is more than 50%, triboelectrostatic charge to an iron powder is more than - 500 $\mu\text{C/g}$, and decomposition rate of an organic group on the powder surface is less than 15%.

Claim 2 (Original): The high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder according to Claim 1, wherein transmittance of a 5% alcoholic dispersion liquid is more than 40%.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder ~~according to Claim 1 or Claim 2~~ of Claim 1, wherein said fine silica powder is synthesized by a vapor phase method, and has a specific surface area of more than 200 m^2/g by the BET method and an amount of residual hydrochloride of less than 100 ppm.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (New): The high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder of Claim 2, wherein said fine silica powder is synthesized by a vapor phase method, and has a specific surface area of more than 200 m^2/g by the BET method and an amount of residual hydrochloride of less than 100 ppm.

Claim 7 (New): A production method of the high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder according to Claim 1, wherein a hydrophobic agent comprising a volatile organic silicon compound is mixed in the gas state with a fine silica powder in a fluidized bed type reaction vessel at the time of a hydrophobic treatment, and a gas flow rate at the time of this mixing is more than 5.0 cm/sec.

Claim 8 (New): A production method of the high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder according to Claim 2, wherein a hydrophobic agent comprising a volatile organic silicon compound is mixed in the gas state with a fine silica powder in a fluidized bed type reaction vessel at the time of a hydrophobic treatment, and a gas flow rate at the time of this mixing is more than 5.0 cm/sec.

Claim 9 (New): A production method of the high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder according to Claim 3, wherein a hydrophobic agent comprising a volatile organic silicon compound is mixed in the gas state with a fine silica powder in a fluidized bed type reaction vessel at the time of a hydrophobic treatment, and a gas flow rate at the time of this mixing is more than 5.0 cm/sec.

Claim 10 (New): A production method of the high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder according to Claim 6, wherein a hydrophobic agent comprising a volatile organic silicon compound is mixed in the gas state with a fine silica powder in a fluidized bed type reaction vessel at the time of a hydrophobic treatment, and a gas flow rate at the time of this mixing is more than 5.0 cm/sec.

Claim 11 (New): A production method of the high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder according to Claim 1, wherein the gas flow rate in the fluidized bed type reaction vessel is more than 3.0 cm/sec at the time of the hydrophobic treatment.

Claim 12 (New): A production method of the high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder according to Claim 2, wherein the gas flow rate in the fluidized bed type reaction vessel is more than 3.0 cm/sec at the time of the hydrophobic treatment.

Claim 13 (New): A production method of the high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder according to Claim 3, wherein the gas flow rate in the fluidized bed type reaction vessel is more than 3.0 cm/sec at the time of the hydrophobic treatment.

Claim 14 (New): A production method of the high dispersible hydrophobic fine silica powder according to Claim 6, wherein the gas flow rate in the fluidized bed type reaction vessel is more than 3.0 cm/sec at the time of the hydrophobic treatment.